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POLAND: Church Acts as Mediator

The Church continues in its historical role as a mediator between the regime and the populace, but it is having difficulty bringing the two sides together. Moscow is expanding its charges of US "interference" in Polish internal affairs, while its media [REDACTED] continue to portray the situation there as "normalizing" despite isolated violence.

Archbishop Glemp yesterday confirmed [REDACTED] that he has urged the government to release Lech Walesa and other Solidarity leaders so that talks could begin between the two sides. While the Archbishop thought that the government might agree to the release, Walesa is unwilling even to consider the regime's proposals. Glemp is firmly convinced that Solidarity must reduce its expectations and submit to the government if it hopes to survive. He is well aware of Solidarity's resistance to this.

The Archbishop believes that martial law could last until next spring and that the present regime is tough enough to control the situation, making Soviet intervention less likely. He stressed that the party still plays a role, primarily through Jaruzelski and that the party, not Solidarity, will determine the future of reform. He was not optimistic, however, since he added that the party is weak.

There has not yet been any reported meeting of the Politburo, but the party is making an effort to raise its public profile. The media are publicizing meetings by local party organizations and the ways in which they are contributing to the work of "national salvation." Party leaders apparently are beginning the slow process of reconstructing a loyal party by purging the ranks.

No new strikes were reported yesterday, but resistance continues in Silesia and the Baltic ports. Two mines near Katowice are still being occupied by workers, and TASS reports that strikers have barricaded themselves in a steel complex in Katowice and have threatened to blow up

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the main furnaces. Regime nervousness about further unrest led to an extension to 4 January of the furlough of part of the work force of the Lenin Shipyard in Gdansk.

Regime claims that strike activity and unrest are declining are probably intended to convince isolated centers of resistance that they are alone in opposing the authorities and ought to desist. A senior general hinted that martial law would be repealed in provinces as pacification succeeded, and the government has eased travel restrictions during the Christmas holiday.

Soviet Commentary

In an *Investiya* article rebutting Secretary of State Haig's assertion Sunday that the USSR bears responsibility

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for the crackdown in Poland, the chief of the US sector of the Soviet party's International Information Department claimed that the "official authorities" of the US had stirred up "chaos and anarchy" in Poland. He vowed that "in time, all will be documented"--a veiled warning that the Soviets will expand their charges of US links to Solidarity extremists if Washington continues to implicate Moscow in the decision to introduce martial law.

Soviet media coverage of the situation inside Poland continues to register general satisfaction but is also letting the Soviet populace know that there is at least some significant resistance to martial law. The TASS stories of worker violence in southern Poland may have been designed to make the Soviet public aware that the potentially explosive situation might, at some point, require more direct action by Moscow. [redacted]